

Upper In Wharfedale.
11. Bolton ^{Words} Abbey in May.

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Perhaps no part of England affords more
delightful walking than the Deanery
of Wharfedale in the West Riding. It is a mountain
country with lovely valleys & limpid streams & its
peculiar geological formations causes effects of
contour & colour as pleasing to the inner senses
as they are interesting to the more scientific. Minster
Abbey & castle most picturesquely placed to
which belong an endless store of tales & historic
memories are freely scattered in the dale -
that is, the habitable parts of this moorland
district; while not even Sussex nor any one
of the eastern counties is richer in churches
of the most venerable antiquity.

Craven includes the upper courses of three
rivers which rise within a few miles of one another
in the western moorlands; the Wharfe & the
Ribble, whose sources lie close together &
~~to all appearance~~ a little spade labour might
make one stream of them, & the more placid
Aire, which begins its career with ice at a
considerable stream issuing from the base
of a huge mass of limestone rock. Of the three
sister valleys that of the Wharfe is at once the
most beautiful & the most interesting; it is
also the most secluded, for railway com-
munication in the valley ends at Ilk, &
Upper Wharfedale - always excepting Bolton
Words - with.

The history of the house is an uneventful one
on the whole. In the year 1171 W^m de Meschines
the elder his wife founded at Embsay a priory
for canons regular, which continued there about
33 years, when it was translated to Bolton, & thus
this exchange came about as learn from the
romantic legend of the "Boy of Wyremond"; - The
dame of Bolton was held by the lady Alix
de Romille. William Fitz-Jurcan, her husband -
the same Scotch baron who had ravaged Craven
in 1138, & afterwards wedded the heiress of William
the elder de Meschines, whose name is known by her
mother as de Romille. They had one surviving
son, the Boy of Wyremond, who, in taking the ship,
a common enough feat, was drawn back by the
dog he held in leash, fell into the wharf, & was
"strangled by a merciless fiend," & was seen no
more, until "he rose a lifeless corse." "What is good
for a bottle here?" asked the dismayed forester,
she brought the news to the boy's mother - "Grief
but endless sorrow," said she, dismissing the
brith: then the monks of Embsay came with
counsel & consolation, & it was thought good
for her comfort that the lady should raise a
fair Abbey in Bolton Woods, near the scene
of her loss, & endow it with her boy's lands, where
the monks should put up daily masses for
her & hers. So runs the legend which words
with this beautiful poem has made familiar,
but against it stands the uncompromising
fact that this Boy of Wyremond himself signed
the deeds warranting the transfer of the lands of

But where are the English wools? we ask, anxious
 to compare their qualities with those of the
~~foreign fleeces~~ whose merits had been pointed out:
 inquiries were made, but not a fleece ^{can} could
 be produced; though, from a five years ^{ago} back,
 50 sorters were constantly employed in
 this Mill upon English wools alone. Our
 informant, W. Livers Salt, attributed this
 suggestive fact solely to the late fashion
 in women's dress - the use of ^{dark} fine, dull fabrics
 in the production of which the bright-English
 wools cannot be employed. Pure alpaca
 shreds are still largely made for coatings
 & other purposes not affected by this fashion.
 Sheeps of 'grey looking stuff', brown, black,
 & 'whitey brown' - beautifully fine & long
 wools by the way - lay about in heaps ready
 for the ~~sort~~ sorter. But our interest in
 the ^{display} foreign wools was ^{greatly} dampened by the ~~complete~~
 absence of the home-grown 'long staple' upon
 which ~~we had supposed the worsted manufacture~~
~~at one time largely~~ so largely depended.

It is easy to see how the withdrawal of
 demand for his fleeces must tell on the
 hard-pressed British farmer; & we learned
 with pleasure

that the ^{in the} ~~British~~ farmer
 also, disappointed by their ^{own} ~~absence~~ ^{in the} ~~absence~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{long} ~~staple~~ ^{wool}
~~the~~ ^{late} ~~staple~~ ^{wool} ~~the~~ ^{late} ~~staple~~ ^{wool}

~~Spacious & unobstructed~~: The river flows
between shelving banks of grey-white
limestone which the weathering of many
winter has worn into endless wrinkles
& shallows, & these afford ~~firm~~ root-hold
to bramble & wild rose, to ash or hazel; while
the narrowest chinks are adorned with
feathery tufts of bracken, or the limestone
polypody, or hartstongue makes the spot-
festive with shining knots of green ribbon.
But these are ordinary adornments; that
which is peculiar, designed in fine contrast
with the pallid grey of the rock is the
velvet-edging of mosses, the colour of a
green velvet or shooting-jacket, only much
darker, nearly black, which softens every
edge & fills up every crevice.

Above the banks, green pastures climb on
either side towards the somewhat broken,
sharply defined sky-line of the distant
fells. The slope is very gradual, a gently
inclined plane, which the eye follows
upwards with pleasure; though the fields
are divided by long lines of deep grey walls
the general aspect of the valley is one of
delightful verdure & fertility. Hedger trees

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there are not, but there are scattered trees, clumps
of trees, woods; indeed every considerable
house in the neighbourhood is enclosed
in a wood, & from any elevation the eye
may range over half a dozen forest patches,
some of them a mile in depth, skirting the
bases of the fells: these are fragments of the
ancient forest which stretched for some
twenty miles between Bolton & Buckden.
The trees in these woods are, for the most-
part, rather stunted Scotch firs; hazel
copse, enclosing open sunny glades.
border the river; here & there is a group
of yew trees, ~~but~~ or a pine ^{the 'Craven oak'} with spread
abroad its branches. The ^{the 'Craven oak'} ash appears to
be the ~~only~~ tree which attains ^{the most} a ~~very~~ considerable
growth in the district.

This is an exceedingly rich pastoral
country; the fat pastures & fine cattle of
Craven are celebrated, & lean beasts from
Ireland & from the Scotch Highlands are brought
here to be fattened for the market. The farms
are grazing or dairy farms, & among
the delights of the neighbourhood are to be
reckoned the abundant rich, sweet-
milk & delicious cream; truly it is
a mistake to live upon anything else
here, nor is it easy to do so, for vegetables,
fruit, & ^{doats} ~~vegetables~~ meat are usually brought
^{up from} ~~up from~~ ^{from Bradford or Skipton.}
^{with the exception of 'long cabbages',}
Grassington is, ^{with the exception of 'long cabbages',} the most-considerable
place in Wharfedale above Alkley: it is a long

hope of Bradford lies in the determination of his
Manufacturers to emulate whatever excellence
is to be ascribed to the productions of foreign
Cooms; possibly, to excel the French & German
Manufacturers in their own lines; but it is
by means of Soft Wool fabrics that this success
^{even now} ~~can~~ be achieved; the most enterprising
Manufacturers cannot enforce the wearing of
Customs Shopp, & therefore, cannot consume
Bright-haired British Wools. ~~It is unnecessary~~

It is unnecessary to dwell on the distressing
State of the agricultural interest, or to point
out why the farmers of the Midlands & Devonshire
& Eastern Counties, should wait the
working of Lady Bective's movement with
fear & anxiety. For the sake of farmers &
manufacturers alike, much sympathy
was felt with the patriotic motive of the
Meeting held lately at the Mansion House
to consider ~~as~~ ^{to} the best means of promoting
the British Woollen Industries: although
no doubt Lord Salisbury's appeal to the
Women of England was widely read at the time,
we will venture to quote the Resolutions he
proposed, & one or two sentences enforcing
it, - merely to refresh the memory of the reader.

Resolved, "That - under present circumstances
it is a matter of national interest that purchasers
of textile fabrics should, as far as possible
give preference to goods of British origin."
Purchasers were reminded that "each one
of them, as they made selections, did, in his
or her sphere & proportion, determine whether
large bodies of English artisans & English
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